

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for confirming an electronic transaction, comprising the steps of:

performing an electronic transaction between a first party and a second party;

sending, by the second party, a request for confirmation of the electronic transaction to a predetermined, private mailbox associated with the first party;

accessing the private mailbox by the first party; and

sending, by the first party, a reply message to the request for confirmation to thereby confirm authorization of the electronic transaction,

wherein information regarding the private mailbox is not communicated to the second party during the electronic transaction.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of sending a request for confirmation comprises the step of contacting, by the second party, a third party service provider to obtain the location of the predetermined, private mailbox.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of sending notification to the first party of a pending request for confirmation.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the notification comprises a confirmation code to be provided in the reply message.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of sending notification comprises sending a notification message by the second party to a predetermined messaging location of the first party other than the private mailbox of the first party.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of sending a reply message comprises sending an e-mail message to a predetermined location.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the e-mail message comprises a confirmation code provided in the notification message.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of sending a reply message comprises forwarding the confirmation message to a predetermined location.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of imposing a time period in which the first party must confirm authorization of the electronic transaction.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of accessing the private mailbox comprises authenticating the identity of the first party to access the private mailbox.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the step of authenticating the identity of the first party comprises performing biometric authentication of the first party.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the step of authenticating the identity of the first party comprises providing a predetermined PIN (personal identification number) or password of the first party.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of encoding the confirmation request and reply message.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the private mailbox comprises a messaging system.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the messaging system comprises one of an e-mail, short messaging, multimedia messaging, instant messaging, voice mail, and universal messaging system.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the private mailbox comprises a post office box and the confirmation is sent via snail mail.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the private mailbox comprises a facsimile number and the confirmation message comprises a facsimile message.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for confirming an electronic transaction, comprising the steps of:

performing an electronic transaction between a first party and a second party;

providing, by the first party to the second party, contact information of a third party service provider associated with the first party;

providing, by the second party to the third-party service provider, a request for confirmation of the electronic transaction;

sending, by the third party service provider, the request for confirmation of the electronic transaction to a predetermined, private mailbox associated with the first party;

accessing the private mailbox by the first party; and

sending, by the first party to the third-party service provider, a reply message to the request for confirmation to thereby confirm authorization of the electronic transaction

wherein information regarding the private mailbox is not communicated to the second party during the electronic transaction.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of sending, by the third party service provider, notification to the first party of a pending request for confirmation.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the step of notifying comprises sending a notification message to a predetermined messaging location of the first party other than the private mailbox of the first party.

21. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of imposing a time period in which the first party must confirm authorization of the electronic transaction.

22. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the step of accessing the private mailbox comprises authenticating the identity of the first party to access the private mailbox.

23. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of encoding the confirmation request and reply message.

24. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the second party and third party service provider are the same entity.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for confirming an electronic transaction, comprising the steps of:

performing an electronic transaction between a first party and a second party; and
sending, by the second party, a confirmation message of the electronic transaction to a predetermined, private mailbox associated with the first party;

wherein the electronic confirmation is deemed confirmed if a reply message denying the transaction is not sent by the first party within a predetermined period of time, and
wherein information regarding the private mailbox is not communicated to the second party during the electronic transaction.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the confirmation notification message provides information regarding the predetermined period of time.

27. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the step of sending a confirmation message comprises the step of contacting, by the second party, a third party service provider to obtain the location of the predetermined, private mailbox.

28. (Withdrawn) A method for confirming an electronic transaction, comprising the steps of:

performing an electronic transaction between a first party and a second party, wherein the electronic transaction requires signing a document;

performing a secure functions computation of an electronic copy of the document and storing the results of the computation;

sending, by the second party, an electronic copy of the document and information to perform the secure functions computation to a predetermined, private mailbox associated with the first party;

accessing the private mailbox by the first party and performing the secure functions computation of the electronic document;

sending, by the first party, results of the secure functions computation to the second party; and

confirming, by the second party, the electronic transaction if the returned results match the stored results.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28, further comprising the step of contacting, by the second party, a third party service provider to obtain the location of the predetermined, private mailbox.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28, wherein the information for performing the secure functions computation comprises an executable file.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28, wherein the information for performing the secure functions computation comprises parameters of a predetermined executable file.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28, wherein the stored result and returned result comprise an encrypted version of the electronic contract.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28, wherein the electronic document is encrypted and the secure functions computation is performed on the encrypted electronic document.